

The Library of Congress'

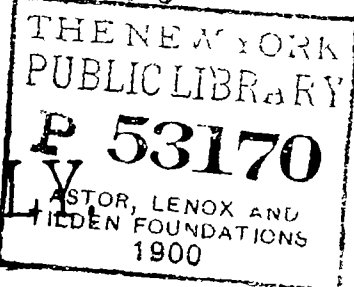
EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

PERILS TO THE FAMILY



An Address delivered before the Evangelical Alliance
Conference at Washington, D. C., Dec. 8, 1887.

BY

REV. SAMUEL W. DIKE, OF AUBURNDALE, MASS.

★
Sec. of the National Divorce Reform League.

749792

I am to make a few suggestions on a subject too great to be fairly outlined in a brief paper.

The object of our study is the simple family of Christian civilization. The essentials of this family are one man and one woman, united in wedlock, together with their children. Other persons may be connected with them, by ties of kindred or of service, or this simplest form of the family may become a fragment through the losses of death. But these are accidental relations or natural deficiencies. We are now to deal with the simple, ideal family, which we all hold to be the true family of nature and Christian civilization.

Though it would be agreeable, and even necessary to a complete view of the case, to turn to more hopeful aspects of the subject, the terms of the theme confine us to the *perils* of this family. Let it also be kept in mind that we have nothing to do here with either the optimistic or pessimistic views as such. It is our present duty to make a simple statement of facts, with some attempt to put them where their deeper meanings can be seen. It may be interesting, and in some degree profitable, to know whether the family life of our people, as a whole or in sections of the country, is better or worse than it was twenty years ago; but the inquiry does not seem to me to be of very great practical use. For, after all we may gain from that point of view, very little light is thrown upon the more important question that is really before us. That question is this:

Is the family in this country where it should be? Has it the integrity and ability to do its appropriate work, and to do this under the peculiar stress under which it is putting up with it? Before these inquiries, all questions as to the comparative strength of the family of to-day

Copyright 1887, by the Evangelical Alliance for the United States.